

and National Associations of Counties, and the California and National Leagues of Cities.

Willie Kennedy received her early education in Dallas, Texas and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from San Francisco State University. She is the widow of the late Superior Court Judge Joseph G. Kennedy, mother of one daughter and two foster daughters, grandmother of nine, great grandmother of 20 and great-great grandmother of one.

During her many years as a civic leader, Willie B. Kennedy has earned the respect of all who have worked with her. I commend her for her many years of dedicated public service and wish her the best of luck in the future.

HONORING THE FOUR CHAPLAINS OF THE U.S.S. DORCHESTER

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to pay tribute to the four brave Chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* who sacrificed their lives in order to save those of others.

On February 3, 1943, a German U-boat off the coast of Greenland sank the U.S.S. *Dorchester*, carrying approximately nine hundred American servicemen. A torpedo struck the *Dorchester* mid-ship, killing hundreds instantly, and sending those still alive into confusion and terror. As the *Dorchester* began to sink it became clear to many on board that the situation was becoming increasingly dire. Unable to signal for help, or call nearby ships due to security reasons, the U.S.S. *Dorchester* faced disaster on its own.

It was in spite of such confusion that George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, Alexander Goode, and John P. Washington, the four chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester* calmly worked to bring order to the catastrophe. Distributing life jackets with composure, the chaplains—one Catholic, one Jewish, and two Protestant—worked together to save the lives of many American servicemen. They did this at the cost of their own lives, giving the final four life jackets to needy American soldiers. Linked arm in arm, praying to the one God to whom they all served, they sank with the *Dorchester*, leaving America eternally in debt to their gratitude.

The inspirational service, and dedication of these four courageous chaplains saved many American lives in the frigid waters of the Atlantic. Their story continues to be one of inspiration to many religious communities throughout America. Furthermore, their willingness to stand together, linked arm in arm, disregarding religious boundaries can be viewed as a true testament to the beauty of religious freedom—a moral value that the United States of America has incessantly fought to protect.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues of the House of Representatives to join with me to honor George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, Alexander Goode, and John P. Washington, the four courageous chaplains of the U.S.S. *Dorchester*.

COMMENDING INDIA ON ITS CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

HON. DAVID VITTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues today and take this opportunity to commend India on its celebration of Republic Day, which formalized India as a parliamentary democracy.

On January 26th of this year India celebrated its 51st Republic Day. In that time India has grown into the world's largest democracy and has helped illustrate the stabilizing force of democracy.

India is one of America's foremost friends in the South Asian region of the world and has continued to be a consistent and helpful ally to the United States in our on-going war against terrorism. Increasingly, America must attempt to engage the Muslim world through diplomacy, and India, along with other nations, provides an opportunity to do that. Most importantly, we will need to identify our friends and to stand by those countries that reflect our faith in ideals such as democracy, human rights and religious freedom.

Over one billion Indian people of diverse faiths in India currently practice democracy and enjoy religious freedom. They look to courts for justice, respect human rights, and in short, embody American values in this important region of the world. The United States and the Republic of India have a common bond and a strong commitment to shared principles. I sincerely hope that the partnership that has been forged between our great nations will continue to blossom.

Because of these many accomplishments, I wish to join my colleagues to express my strong support that the friendship between our two countries continues, and to commend India on its celebration of Republic Day.

THE PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the 90s' we had ten years of solid economic growth. In the past two years, America has entered an economic downturn. For the first time in a decade the economic indicators—benchmarks showing where we are and where we are going—all point down. Job losses in technology and manufacturing have risen dramatically and corporate bankruptcies were nearly double what they were two years ago. Consumer confidence hit its lowest point in over a decade. Even though, the U.S. stock market saw a significant gain during the 90s'. However, the bottom has virtually fallen out as a result of the events of September 11th. Now every industry is taking a huge hit as profits and employment figures head into a downward trend. Presently, under the Bush's Administration the country is averaging approximately 68,000 workers losing their jobs per month. Resulting in the fastest pace for job elimination in more than 20 years.

The President's speech last night did not mention that his economic plan calls for cutting job training and employment funding by \$534 million while unemployment is increasing. The President's plan calls for reducing \$500 million from title 1, the Federal Government's primary program for targeting aid to the most disadvantaged students. This cut means 447,000 fewer low-income students will be served by this program. Also, the President's proposes to cut \$250 million from teacher quality initiatives. For heating assistance, the President is expecting a \$300 million cut from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) program at a time heating prices are rising.

While some talk about tax cuts which will primarily benefit the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers, and do nothing for the bottom 75 percent, let me suggest that any serious economic stimulus package or plan must consider and be focused on the needs of the poor and the most vulnerable among us.

The President should propose a fair fiscal policy that will provide more unemployment benefits and health coverage for low to moderate income workers. These are the people who spend a larger portion of their earned dollars to make ends meet. By expanding unemployment benefits for those who have already exhausted their extended benefits and continue to seek jobs and health coverage to dislocated workers, it would be the quickest way to stimulate the economy.

Only the Democratic plan focuses on working families and small businesses that drives the engine of the American economy. Under its plan every worker will get a tax cut and everyone receives the same \$600 per couple. This fair and equitable tax cut will provide a short-term stimulus for our economy while allowing the budget to recover as the economy strengthens.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMISSIONER MILLIE TEUSCHER

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2003

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my dear friend, Millie Teuscher, who recently stepped down as Lake County Commissioner after 14 historic years. Millie will be greatly missed by everyone in the county. She has the distinction of being the first and only female commissioner in the 162-year history of the body.

Millie is one of my oldest and closest friends in Lake County. I first got to know Millie when she was a councilwoman in Mentor, and later was thrilled when she sought office at the county level. She was part of a historic sweep of county offices by Republicans in the late 1980s, and really changed the face and tone of county government in Lake County. She brought an "every woman" sensibility to her job, and while she played the role of government watchdog with zeal, she was also admirably compassionate about the problems facing county residents and employees. Over her many years of elected office, she probably doled out an equal number of hugs and handshakes. She was not one to exert ego or insist on formalities, and was known to everyone as simply "Millie."